Initial: 9/92 Reviewed/revised: 5/10/00

Revision: 2

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS PRACTICAL SKILL SPINAL STABILIZATION

Approved by:	Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:	
Page 1 of 1	

Purpose:		Indications:		
To provide rigid stabilization of the spinal column in a		Patients with a suspected potential for spinal cord		
patient with a suspected potential for spinal cord injury injury				
Advantages:	Disadvantages:		Complications:	Contraindications:
Prevent further injury	Immobilizes patient supine leaving airway		Pressure sores	None
	easily compromised if patient vomits		due to long	
	Straps may restrict respiratory effort		transport times	

Stabilize head & C-spine in neutral position with manual stabilization at base of skill with fingers under jaw

Pad as necessary under shoulders in pediatric patients or behind neck of patients with marked kyphosis to keep C-spine in neutral position

Maintain stabilization until patient is secured on long board

Use appropriate technique/adjunct to maintain airway

Select appropriate size cervical collar for patient

Slip C-collar under patient's neck without flexing head

Apply collar without releasing stabilization; close straps

Restrain patient's extremities appropriately

Move patient to long board using appropriate technique

Reassess neurologic status